



# RIPS NEWS

## Advocates for Historic Architecture

### Membership Meetings

November 21, 2023  
Tuesday 7:00 PM

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island  
Regular business meeting

December 12, 2023  
Tuesday 6:30 PM

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island  
Annual Holiday Gathering. *Please note the change in both the DATE and TIME from our regular meeting schedule. See article below*

January 16, 2024,  
Tuesday 7:00 PM

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island  
Regular business meeting

*If you have requested, an email reminder with the Meeting Agenda will be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting.*

*Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities*

### HOLIDAY SOCIAL

**Tuesday, December 12  
6:30 PM at  
Hauberg Mansion**

Members and friends are invited to our annual holiday gathering at the beautifully decorated Hauberg Mansion. If you know of someone who is interested in the history and architecture of Rock Island, bring them as your guests.

Please bring a sweet or savory "small bite" to share. Beverages and table service is provided.

*This social replaces our usual monthly meeting, Please note the change in the date and time from our normal monthly schedule.*

### WEISMAN ADDITION TOUR



Avenue west of 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

After several cold wet days, Sunday, October 8 turned out to be sunny and warm – a perfect day for RIPS tour of the Weisman Addition on 21<sup>st</sup>

We created a brochure that featured the seven Chicago Bungalow style homes there and enjoyed the company of over fifty attendees.

Three homeowners even participated and told our tour goers of their history and experience in the beautiful neighborhood. Several cited Alma Gaul's newspaper story as their incentive for attendance. And we even had a Muscatine family. The response was wonderful – many saying they'd never been here and what a treasure it is, while others observed that it was always a favorite area and they'd go out of their way to drive down the street of beautifully maintained homes. We even picked up three new memberships.

**We are grateful to all who assisted to make this a memorable event.**

## ROCK ISLAND POINTS OF DISTINCTION

Thanksgiving is coming up, and it's good to share things that make us happy. So much of what makes Rock Island special is related to our history and our historic buildings. Recently, long-time RIPS member (and former mayor) Mark Schwiebert wrote the following and permitted us to share it. He calls it: ROCK ISLAND POINTS OF DISTINCTION. As you read it, you may wish to add things that you find special

1. Blackhawk State Historic Site – Largest (and among the most popular) Historic Sites in Illinois.

2. Two beautiful riverfronts, along the Mississippi River and the Rock River, with multiple attractions, including QC Expo Center, Sunset Park, Ben Williamson Park, Schwiebert Riverfront Park. Two national cross-country bike and hike trails (American Discovery Trail and the Great River Trail) intersect at the Mississippi River in Rock Island



3. Cultural Attractions – Including QC Botanical Center, QC Arts, Quad City Ballet, Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, Genesis Guild, and Sunday venue of QC Symphony.

4. National headquarters of two major fraternal life insurance companies – Modern Woodman of America and Royal Neighbors of America

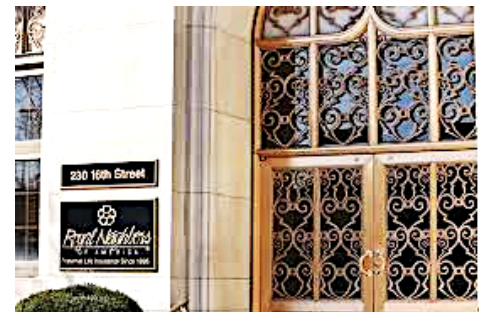


5. Headquarters of one of the largest and most diverse civil engineering firms in the country – IMEG Corp.

6. Religious and retreat center, the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Mary Monastery with its beautiful campus.

7. Bally's Casino and Resort, formerly known as Jumer's Casino and Hotel.

8. Multiple microbreweries - Wake, Bent River, and Radicle Effects at this time, with more expected.



9. Two excellent 18-hole municipal golf courses – including a shortened executive length course (Saukie) and a full length course (Highland Springs).

10. Multiple major and neighborhood parks throughout the City, as well as Sunset Marina, one of the largest on the upper Mississippi.



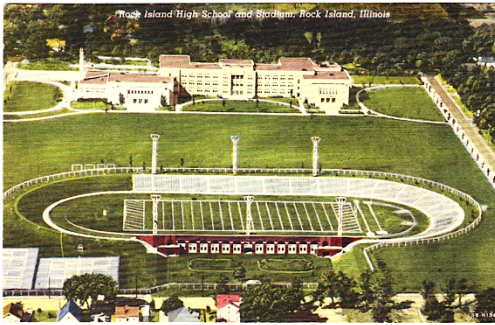
11. Landmark restaurants and foods – Harris Pizza, Jim's Ribs, Boetje's Mustard, Old Arthur's BBQ Sauce- among them.

12. Outstanding public and private education at all levels - Augustana College, Alleman Catholic and Rock Island High Schools, and many elementary and middle schools, public and private.





# ROCK ISLAND POINTS OF DISTINCTION



13. Only YWCA in Quad Cities, currently completing a new multi-million dollar building downtown.

14. Only joint Library/YMCA in Midwest and 1 of 3 in the U.S., creatively adapting the former Tri-City Jewish Center

15. Cultural and ethnic diversity with over 30 languages spoken at Rock Island High School.

16. Rock Island is the oldest of the Quad Cities, with arguably the richest history.

- It encompasses the former major Native American settlements of Saukenuk on the Rock River and the Mesquakie village where downtown Rock Island is now on the Mississippi;

- Site of westernmost battle of the Revolutionary War and of the Black Hawk War, in which Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis both served on the same side.

- It was the home base of celebrated Rock Island Lines Railroad which built the first Mississippi River railroad bridge crossing which resulted in Lincoln's most celebrated litigation.

- It was the original



home of the Weyerhaeuser –Denkmann Lumber Company and International Harvester's Farmall Plant.

Photos, Left page (upper right then clockwise): Schwiebert Riverfront Park; Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, postcard Fort Armstron Theater; Royal Neighbors of America, front detail; aerial view of Augustana College; Bent River Brewing Company; Benedictine Sisters of Saint Mary Monastery; Quad City Arts; colonnade at Genesis Guild, Lincoln Park.



Right page ((upper right then clockwise): Boetje's Mustard; The Y-brary, Rock Island Public Library Watts-Midtown Branch and YMCA; Advertising material, Rock Island Lines Railroad; Walking path and viewing structure, Sunset Park; Weyerhaeuser Mansion, aka House On The Hill at Augustana College; Chief Black Hawk statue at the John Hauberg Museum; Rock Island High School and Stadium



*What would you add to this List?*



## THE LITTLE STONE HOUSE AT SAUKIE GOLF COURSE



The Little Stone House may well be the oldest building in Rock Island. Built in 1844, using stone quarried on the William Carr farm, the home originally served to house the farm workers, while the Carr family lived closer to the Rock River. The stone house remained in the Carr family until given to the Rock Island Parks Department by descendant Bud Welch. Although the house had been maintained over the years, the stonework had become increasingly unstable. Repairs that attempted to stabilize the soft sandstone with hard cement mortar contributed to the accelerated deterioration. After expert analysis of the house, the park board's selected contractor, Bert Lafferty Company, skillfully removed and rebuilt a significant amount of the exterior stonework. (From the RIPS 2006 Preservation Award presented to the

*Rock Island Parks Department.*)

Before the Little Stone House exterior was restored, Helen Burkhiser, a 4th Grade teacher at Logan School, Moline, taught her 4th grade students history by using the Little House on the Prairie series of books. She would wear a long cotton dress with apron and play the part of the author and main character—Laura Ingalls Wilder. As she neared retirement in the 1980s, she thought about ways to expand her unique way of teaching the history of the mid-1800s. She began to offer classes, first in her basement, but, as the classes increased in size, she approached the RI Park Board for permission to hold them in the Little Stone House.

Mrs. Burkhiser would read portions from a book in the series to the children. Then, they would do an activity that was related to the reading. The kids made jam, soap, and venison stew. They played games described in Laura's book and sang popular children's songs of the time. They took with them a good understanding of every-day-life during the 1800s. By holding classes in the Little Stone House she was able to create a realistic view of the actual environment of these times.



Helen then thought of another way to help more children learn through her methodology. In Illinois, 4th grade students learn their state's history. So, she started the Illinois Writers' Guild (IWG), a group of teachers with an interest in local history. The group chose a topic and created books appropriate for 4th grade students. Each book included games, recipes for making venison stew and soap ...or whatever seemed relevant. There were lesson plans and information that a teacher would find helpful in teaching about this period. These books were donated to local libraries and sold to teachers for \$5 to cover printing costs. IWG served as publisher. This group continued its work until the 1990s. IWG would often meet in the Little Stone House on Saukie Golf Course. By this time, Helen's daughter, Cindy, had taken over the Little House classes and continued them in the Little Stone House for many more years as a legacy to her mother, Helen Burkhiser.

*By Diana Alm, member of the Illinois Writers Guild  
and mother of a son who took one of Helen's classes in her basement*

Next spring, 2024, Rock Island Preservation Society is planning  
a tour of the Little Stone House.

If you have been curious about this house at Saukie or you remember one of  
Helen Burkhiser's classes about Laura Ingalls Wilder's books,  
***you will enjoy this tour.***

And bring children and grandchildren.